

REMARKS

In the October 23, 2006 Office Action, claims 1-7, 9-19 and 21-24 stand rejected in view of prior art, while claims 8 and 20 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the October 23, 2006 Office Action, Applicant has amended the claims as indicated above. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Thus, claims 1-4, 6-16 and 18-24 are pending, with claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21 and 23 being the independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of above amendments and the following comments.

Objections/Double Patenting

On pages 2 and 14, claims 1 and 11 were objected to for allegedly being duplicates of each other. Applicant has amended claim 11 to depend from claim 1.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-3, 5-6, 9-11, 13-15, 17-18 and 21-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,646,411 (Hirono et al) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,737,828 (Kiuchi et al). In response, Applicant has amended the claims as mentioned above.

“To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art.” MPEP §2143.03 citing *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). Applicant respectfully asserts that Hirono et al and Kiuchi et al, separately or in combination do not disclose all of the claimed limitations.

The Office Action states that Hirono et al discloses: (i) “detecting (fig. 1, 29) at least one of an output voltage and a command value of the inverter as a detection value (column 1,

lines 50-52)”; (ii) “controlling (fig. 1, 24) at least one of voltage and current of the inverter based upon the detection value so that one of the output voltage value and the command value of the inverter does not exceed a predetermined value (column 1, lines 57-58)”; and (iii) “the detection value is a peak value (column 8, lines 36) of one of the output voltage of the inverter and the command value.”

It is a phase current, not an output voltage value, that is detected in (i), controlled so as not to exceed the predetermined value in (ii), and referred to with respect to a peak value in (iii) in Hirono et al. The voltage generated at the shunt resistor 23 of Hirono et al is also caused by the phase current. These are not an output voltage value or a detection value. Furthermore, Hirono et al discloses measurement values at column 1, lines 50-58, which cannot constitute a command value.

Applicant respectfully submits that Kiuchi et al does not remedy the deficiencies of Hirono et al. Accordingly, all of the claim limitations are not taught or suggested by Hirono et al and Kiuchi et al.

On page 11 of the Office Action, claims 4, 7, 12, 16 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,422,331 (Ochiai et al) in view of Kiuchi et al. It is unclear how an Office Action can make an anticipation rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by combining Ochiai et al in view of Kiuchi et al. Nevertheless, Applicant respectfully submits that Ochiai et al and Kiuchi et al, singularly or in combination, do not disclose all of the claimed elements.

Independent claims 4, 7, 16 and 19 recite a motor control method and apparatus so as *to suppress rotational speed variations* of a motor. The technique described in Ochiai et al safely ends control of the motor 2 by lowering motor torque to zero (column 13, lines 37-41, and S67 in Fig. 9), *not suppresses rotational speed variations*.

Applicant respectfully submits that Kiuchi et al does not remedy the deficiencies of Ochiai et al. Accordingly, all of the claim limitations are not taught or suggested by Ochiai et al and Kiuchi et al when taken singularly or in combination.

Therefore, the prior art of record lacks any teaching or suggestion to create the Applicant's unique motor control method and apparatus.

Moreover, Applicant believes that the dependent claims are also allowable over the prior art of record in that they depend from the independent claims, and therefore are allowable for the reasons stated above. Thus, Applicant believes that since the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest the invention as set forth in the independent claims, the prior art of record also fails to disclose or suggest the inventions as set forth in the dependent claims.

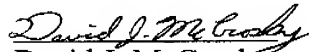
Also, the dependent claims are further allowable because they include additional limitations. For example, Hirono et al does not disclose that the motor drive controller 24 controls a direct current voltage supplied to the inverter, as claimed in claims 12 and 24.

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn in view of the above comments and amendments.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-4, 6-16 and 18-24 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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